

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:EHURWITZ

APPROVED BY EUR BAKER

C/PR:HDAVIS

DIA:CAPT. BABBITT

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O 052105Z DEC 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 238140

E.O.11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BU, US

SUBJECT: ARREST OF WIFE OF SECRETARY TO BULGARIAN MILITARY

ATTACHE

REF: SOFIA USDAO DTG 052033Z DEC. 73

1. ON DECEMBER 4 BULGARIAN EMBASSY CONSUL IVANOV AND MILITARY ATTACHE COL. TOSHEV CALLED AT EUR/EE TO REPORT ARREST FOR SHOPLIFTING DECEMBER 3 OF WIFE OF COL. TOSHEV'S SECRETARY, MRS. STEFAN KURSHEV. THEY ASKED THAT DEPARTMENT INTERVENE WITH ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA COURT SO THAT MRS. KURSHEV WOULD NOT HAVE TO STAND TRIAL AS SCHEDULED BY COURT ON DECEMBER 7. THEY SAID MRS. KURSHEV HAD BEEN RELEASED BY ALEXANDRIA POLICE FOLLOWING ARREST AFTER COL. TOSHEV HAD IDENTIFIED HER. NO BAIL MONEY WAS REQUIRED.

2. IT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY DETERMINED BY OFFICE OF PROTOCOL THAT MRS. KURSHEV HAD DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY AND WOULD NOT HAVE TO APPEAR IN COURT. THE ALEXANDRIA COURT HAS BEEN SO IN-CONFIDENTIAL

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FORMED. DEPARTMENT OFFICER TOLD BULGARIAN EMBASSY EVENING

OF DECEMBER 4 THAT MRS. KURSHEV WOULD NOT BE REQUIRED TO STAND TRIAL.

3. ACCORDING TO TOSHEV'S ACCOUNT OF INCIDENT, MRS. KURSHEV WAS IN A HECHT DEPARTMENT STORE WHEELING HER TWO-YEAR OLD CHILD IN A CARRIAGE. SHE PUT SOME MERCHANDISE INTO THE CARRIAGE INTENDING TO PAY FOR IT. AT THIS POINT, THE CHILD BECAME UNRULY, AND MRS. KURSHEV WHEELED HIM OUT OF THE STORE TO CALM HIM, FORGETTING ABOUT THE MERCHANDISE. SHE WAS APPREHENDED BY A STORE DETECTIVE ABOUT FIFTY YARDS FROM THE STORE EXIT. TOSHEV WAS EXTREMELY APOLOGETIC ABOUT WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS AN EMBARRASSING ERROR BY MRS. KURSHEV. AT NO TIME DID HE RAISE THE QUESTION OF "PROVOCATION."

4. AT EMBASSY'S DISCRETION, DAO MIGHT CITE BULGARIAN EMBASSY'S ACCOUNT OF INCIDENT TO COL. GRIGOROV, POINTING OUT THAT IT CLEARLY INDICATES THAT ANY SUSPICION OF "PROVOCATION" TOTALLY UNWARRANTED. KISSINGER

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